

UNAPPROVED

Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7:00 pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendance: First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Brian Gordon, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1) **Call to order-** First Selectman Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance-** Led by Bob Ferguson
- 3) **Girls Scout Week** - Proclamation presented by First Selectman Chris Spaulding
- 4) **Marketing & Communications Advisory Committee Interviews**
The following residents were interviewed by the Board of Selectmen:
Gavin Guerra, Samantha Nestor, Peter Blau, Andrew Palladino, Sharon Murphy, Barbara Reynolds and Sarah Grederick. Mr. Spaulding stated more interviews will take place at the next BOS Meeting on April 5th.
- 5) **Discussion/decision regarding a sublease of Lachat Farm to the Friends of Lachat-** Ellen McCormick, Carol Baldwin, David Allon and Vickie Kelley from Lachat Town Farm Commission (LTFC) would like to have someone on site, doing work, maintenance of facility – keeping an eye on things. Mr. Luiz explained that the Town would prefer to sublease their interest in the property to the Friends of Lachat so they can sublease to tenants who can maintain property. The town would still have a responsibility in the maintenance in property and this lease addresses who is responsible for what. Mr. Spaulding asked Mr. Grozinger if he can work with the Friends of Lachat to make sure this lease works for the Town as well as the Friends. Mr. Spaulding said he is targeting a Special Town Meeting for April 19, 2018 at 7 pm in the Town Hall to have a sublease approved. He stated that before a Special Town Meeting can be officially set, the the BOS would vote and approve the lease at their April 5th Meeting. The Board of Selectmen agreed that Selectman Grozinger would review the contract on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and make any necessary changes with the representatives with the Friends of Lachat.
- 6) **Discussion/decision regarding a Board of Selectmen statement about Gun Safety**

Police Commission Member Dawn Egan stated that the Commission unanimously joined the Weston Board of Education in endorsing the statement about gun safety (written by the Connecticut Board of Education) and they are asking for the support of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Spaulding moved that the Weston Board of Selectmen support and endorse the principals set forth in the following statement by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education: We call upon our leaders in Washington, and across the country, to take action to end what has become an epidemic of senseless violence in our nation, and to support the principles set forth below. First, we need sensible gun laws at the federal level and across the country that appropriately safeguard public safety. In the wake of Connecticut's own tragedy at Sandy Hook, we took action to ban automatic assault weapons and large-capacity magazines such as the ones used in Florida. However, state lines are porous, and statutes such as Connecticut's only go so far. We must also ensure that mandatory background checks for individuals seeking to purchase guns keep weapons out of the hands of those who pose a danger to our communities. We must invest in the security of our schools. While we don't want to turn our education settings into imposing fortresses, we have a responsibility to our students and staff to ensure that they can feel safe and secure as they devote themselves to the studies that will prepare them for adulthood. Connecticut has led this effort and continues to make funding school security infrastructure a priority despite the state's fiscal situation. Finally, we need to operate more effectively as a Connecticut community and as a nation to identify individuals at risk of committing acts of violence such as these and ensure they have access to and receive the services and interventions necessary to avert the outcomes that we mourn today. In many cases, these individuals have raised flags prior to acting. We need to fund the mental health and counseling services that allow individuals to address the traumas they may be experiencing and resolve them in a healthy manner and not through acts of unthinkable horror such as Sandy Hook and most recently, Parkland, Florida. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Grozinger added that we need to make sure our efforts don't end here.

- 7) **Retirement of Public Works Director Joseph Lametta** – Mr. Spaulding said Mr. Lametta worked for our Town for 40 years and will be greatly missed. Mr. Gordon moved to accept the retirement of Public Works Director Joseph Lametta effective August 3, 2018. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) **Discussion/decision regarding establishing a Technology Advisory Committee** Mr. Spaulding stated last night the BOF approved a supplemental appropriation related to IT equipment for the Town— contingent on having a technology advisory committee go over these contracts. Mr. Spaulding thinks this board should consist of 5 members, advising the BOS on a project-by-project basis. Mr. Grozinger moved to establish a Technology Advisory Committee consisting of no more than five members and that the Committee is charged with providing information and communication technology advice to the BOS on a project specific basis. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously

9) **Recommendation from the Legal Review Committee about the appointment of a Town Attorney**

Legal Review Committee Chair, Mr. Dennis Tracey explained the RFP and interview process. He stated that after receiving 8 responses, they interviewed 3 law firms and have decided to recommend that the Board of Selectmen appoint as Town Attorney Ira Blum with the law firm of Berchem Moses. Mr. Tracey stated that Mr. Blum is the Town Attorney for many of our neighboring towns. Mr. Luiz suggested that the Town engage a different attorney, Mr. Adam Cohen, only for the purpose of tax sales. Mr. Spaulding stated that the next step is for the Board of Selectmen to interview Mr. Blum. NO MOTION

10) **Approval of Property Tax Refunds** Mr. Grozinger moved to approve property tax refunds totaling \$50,965.89, as presented. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11) **Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Gordon moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the 2/22/18, 2/20/18 and 3/13/18 meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12) **Executive Session:** Discussion concerning the performance of a Town Hall Employee Mr. Grozinger moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of a discussion concerning the performance of a Town Hall Employee. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously at 8:45 pm. The Board of Selectmen were joined in Executive Session by Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and Town Clerk Donna Anastasia. Executive Session ended at 9:22 pm.

13) **Adjournment:** Selectmen Gordon moved and Selectmen Grozinger seconded to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously at 9:23 pm.